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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA

Strengthening of the Agricultural Faculty of the Central University of Las Villas (CUB/77/005)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	February 1979 (Retroactive)
Starting date of project activities:	January 1979 (Excluding preparatory activities in 1977)
Planned completion date:	December 1981
To be executed by:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Higher Education
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$ 790 000
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. In Cuba, agricultural development is of particular social and economic importance with 36 per cent of the labour force being occupied in the fields of agriculture and forestry, and sugar cane alone contributing 75-85 per cent of the total value of the country's exports. Furthermore, agricultural development has to satisfy not only the food needs of the population, but also produce a surplus for export to finance the importation of capital goods. To achieve the envisaged development in the field of agriculture, the training of professionals at university level is a necessity.

2. The Government has given high priority to educational development and personnel training in agriculture in which the Faculty of the Central University of Las Villas plays an important role. In this field courses for both part-time and full-time students have been of great importance. Although considerable progress in agricultural training has been achieved, with respect to both the number of professionals trained as well as to the quality of the education given, the increasing needs of the country in these respects have not yet been met, hence the need for the present project.

* In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250.000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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II. The project

3. The development objective of the project is to assist the Cuban Government in solving the problems resulting from the lack of highly qualified manpower in the agricultural sector, and thereby facilitate the implementation of the country's development plans in this sector.

4. The immediate objectives of the project are, among others, to: strengthen the laboratory facilities of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of the University of Las Villas, particularly through the supply of equipment; and improve the educational capacity of the Faculty, particularly the post-graduate training of high-level scientific personnel in the areas of animal virology and animal surgery; and improve the courses for part-time students.

III. Inputs

5. UNDP will provide the services of experts in education and research; fellowships; and a large variety of equipment.

6. The Government will provide personnel including the Project Manager and administrative support personnel, office facilities and equipment.

IV. Financial Data

7. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	Previously approved	Present approval	Total Approved
	$	$	$
Personnel	10 000	130 700	140 700
Training		22 000	22 000
Equipment		606 800	606 800
Miscellaneous		30 500	30 500
	10 000	790 000	800 000

8. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $3.759.418 (in kind).